

**REMARKS**

A reconsideration is requested of Claims 1-5, wherein Claim 1 has been amended, and Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled.

On page 5 of the Official Action, the Examiner suggests language for Claim 6.

However, Claim 6 has been canceled.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent 198 01 804. In addition, Claims 1-2 and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,668,162 to *Cederwall*.

The present invention, as defined in independent Claim 1, pertains to a component of a fluid flow machine including a plurality of cooling channels for passage of a cooling medium. At least one inspection aperture through which an inspection of the interior of the component is made possible is also included.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define that the cooling channels comprise at least one curved flow section, and that the inspection aperture is arranged essentially in a direction tangentially to the curved flow section curvature. These features are shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, marked-up versions of which are attached to facilitate the Examiner's understanding. None of the art of record disclose these patentable features.

DE 198 01 804 discloses a cooling system for a turbine blade, wherein in addition to the cooling air bores, one or more inspection apertures are arranged in the walls of the cooling channels (see reference numbers 22, 30 and 64). However, these inspection apertures are not arranged essentially in a direction tangentially to the curved flow section

curvature, as now defined in independent Claim 1. In particular, the aperture 22 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 is not arranged near a flow section, and as such is not arranged essentially in a direction tangentially to the curved flow section curvature. With regard to aperture 30 shown in FIG. 1, this aperture is arranged essentially perpendicular to the flow direction, and does not allow for dust particles to be discharged. With regard to aperture 64 shown in FIG. 3, it is not arranged near a curved flow section, as such is not arranged essentially in a direction tangentially to the curved flow section curvature. In FIG. 4, there is no curved flow section. Moreover, DE 198 01 804 fails to mention or discuss inspection apertures which are positioned such that these apertures serve as dust discharge apertures. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejections based on DE 198 01 804 is respectfully requested.

Similarly, *Cederwall* fails to disclose the patentable features of independent Claim 1. The Examiner refers to component 50 of the fluid flow machine as a "to be cooled component" comprising plural cooling channels 86 for the passage of the cooling medium. However, the cooling channels 86 are not curved, as now defined in independent Claim 1. Furthermore, the apertures are not arranged essentially in a direction tangentially to the curved flow section curvature. Therefore, the component of independent Claim 1 is not disclosed in the document to *Cederwall*.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the component of independent Claim 1, the claims depending therefrom, is patentably distinguishable over the applied documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would help in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned requests that she be contacted at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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